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Indian Rights Association,
1305 Arch St., Philadelphia, Feb. 9, 1893.

*To Members of the Indian Rights Association, and to all who are Interested in a Prompt and Wise Solution of the Indian Problem :—*

I have just received the following important item in a letter from Mr. C. C. Painter, the Washington Agent of the Association, under date of February 8th. It shows that serious reduction of funds for Indian education is threatened at a time when a sound economical policy would dictate rather, at least, a moderate increase. Mr. Painter writes :—

"The Indian Appropriation Bill, as reported, appropriates $2,045,770 for the support of schools, which is a reduction of $137,560 from last year, according to the report accompanying the bill. The appropriation for last year, as given in the report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, was $2,312,385, showing, as you will see, that the reduction is $256,615. There is also included in the appropriation for this year, $30,000 for the Columbian Exposition exhibit, so that you will have to add $30,000 to the amount by which the school appropriation is reduced. This is a pretty heavy cut. I do not know how the committee can justify what seems to me a misleading statement, when they say the reduction is only $137,560. But there seems to be a double mistake in the Report. The whole sum given in the Bill to education and the exposition is $2,066,820 ; a reduction from last year's Bill of $245,565 ; and deducting the $30,000 included for the exposition, the reduction is $275,565, which is really a very serious matter."

I would respectfully suggest to those who read this communication, and who feel an interest in the subject, that every effort should be made to prevent this reduction, and to avert a reactionary and injurious policy in the matter of Indian education. All legitimate pressure should be brought to bear, through letters to representatives in the House and in the Senate, and through the columns of the newspapers, in asking the continuance of the present sound policy. Abundant facts are obtainable through the office of the Indian Rights Association, and from other sources, to show that efforts for Indian education

have met with reasonable and solid success; that it is to the interest of all concerned, both Indians and whites, that *all* Indian children should be educated; that at present only 19,907 out of 35,000 Indian children of the United States are in school. To reduce appropriations under such circumstances is to act unwisely and illogically. While we sympathize heartily with the cutting off of all foolish and demoralizing public expenditures, we oppose with equal sincerity and earnestness reductions in Government appropriations which will tend to foster ignorance and vice, and which are contrary to the acknowledged policy in promoting Indian education that the Government has adopted.

The recent murder of several white men on a western reservation, by Indians, who are reported to have acted wholly under the influence of a superstition based upon ignorance, is a striking illustration of the necessity for education. The only way in which such dangerous conditions can be removed is through education. It is a kind of moral sanitation which is needed in almost every Indian tribe, and it is the part both of sound sense and humanity to see that the means necessary to provide such a reform are secured.

HERBERT WELSH,

*Corresponding Secretary Indian Rights Association.*

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